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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,783	02/27/2004	Donald A. Serino	ALS-018	6129

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LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP.
28 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MA 02109

EXAMINER	
HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2833	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,783	SERINO, DONALD A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Briggitte R. Hammond	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 June 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), fig. 1. AAPA discloses a modular network connector assembly, comprising: a plug receptacle 20 sized and configured to receive a plug 30, a ridge 29 formed on an inner surface of the receptacle for engaging with a groove in the plug to removably retain the plug in the receptacle.

Claim 19 aand 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tubbs. Tubbs discloses a modular network connector assembly, comprising: a plug housing 30, a plug receptacle 34 formed in a first end of the plug housing for receiving and releasbaly retaining a wired end of a plug such that a mating end of the plug protrudes from the first end of the plug housing when retained by the receptacle and a threaded portion 68 on the second end of the plug housing.

Regarding claim 20, Tubbs discloses a threaded strain relief 64 mated with the threaded portion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1,2,6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Behning 5,167,522 in view of Eshlem et al. 4,070,080. Behning discloses the invention

substantially as claimed. Behning discloses a modular network connector assembly comprising: a first connector housing 1 for housing a first connector half having a first telescoping body portion; a second connector housing 7 having a second telescoping body portion for engaging with the first telescoping body portion, wherein the second connector housing is configured to house a second connector half for axially mating with the first connector half; an annular collar 11 encircling the telescoping body portions and rotatably held on the second connector housing, a spring 17 inside the collar, the ends of the spring being confined between the second connector housing and the collar so as to yieldingly resist rotation of the collar relatively to the second connector housing; and axially opposed tabs 21,22 disposed on the collar and first connector housing with opposed flaring cam surfaces 34 cooperatively producing rotation of the collar relative to the first connector housing as the first and second connector housing are telescoped to a mated contact position, the cam surfaces guiding the collar tab around the body tab; wherein the spring yields as the collar is rotated by the cam tabs during contact mating, and the spring then rotates the collar tab to a latching position axially behind the body tab locking the first and second connector housings in mated contact position. Behning does not disclose the connector housing having a receptacle providing releasable housing. However, Eshleman et al. discloses a connector assembly having connector housings with receptacles for housing portions of the mating connector. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector assembly of Behning by providing receptacles for housing portions of the mating connector.

Regarding claim 2, a first connector half 4 housed in the first connector housing and a second connector half 6 housed in the second connector housing.

Regarding claim 6, the first connector housing includes a retaining system 26,27.

Regarding claim 7, the retaining system 26,27 comprises a first groove 26 for engaging a first protrusion on the first connector half.

Regarding claim 8, the retaining system 26,27 comprises a second groove 27 for engaging a first protrusion on the second connector half.

Regarding claim 9, the second connector housing 7 includes a retaining system 23,24 for releasably retaining the first connector half therein.

Regarding claim 10, the retaining system includes a ridge at 23 formed in a plug-receiving receptacle of the second connector housing for engaging a groove 26 on the second connector half.

Regarding claims 11,12 , further comprising a threaded strain relief (nut, not shown, col. 2 lines 5-8) mated with the threaded portion of the plug housing.

Regarding claim 13, Behning does not disclose, second connector housing includes a lever disabling groove for disabling a latching lever on the plug. However, AAPA discloses a connector housing including a lever disabling groove 29 for disabling a latching lever 39 on plug 32. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Behning by providing a lever disabling groove for disabling a latching lever as taught by AAPA.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behning in view of Eshlem et al. as recited in claim 1, and further in view of Bradley et

al. 5,240,436. Behning and Eshlem et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Neither Behning nor Eshlem et al disclose the first connector half comprises a RJ-45 jack and the second connector half comprises a RJ-45 plug. However, it would have been obvious to convert the bnc connector of Behning to a RJ-45 jack and RJ-45 plug as taught by Bradley for compatability.

Regarding claim 4, the plug mates with the jack when the first and second connector housings are in the mated contact position.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behning, Eshlem et al. and Bradley et al. as discussed in claim 3 above, and further in view of AAPA. Neither Behning, Eshlem et al. nor Bradley et al disclose the second connector housing includes a lever disabling groove for disabling a latching lever on the plug when the plug is inserted in the second connector housing. However, AAPA discloses a connector housing including a lever disabling groove 29 for disabling a latching lever 39 on plug 32. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Behning and Bradley by providing including a lever disabling groove for disabling a latching lever as taught by AAPA.

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Tubbs 4,648,682. Tubbs discloses a modular network connector assembly, comprising: A jack housing 32, a first cavity 36 formed in the housing for receiving and retaining a jack 34; a second cavity 46 formed in the housing for receiving a telescoping portion of a plug housing 72; and a jack retaining system for releasably retaining a jack in the first cavity (fig. 5). Tubbs does not disclose the first cavity formed in the back of

the housing. However, that feature is an obvious rearrangement of parts. And it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70.

Regarding claim 16, wherein a plug retained in the plug housing mates with a jack mounted in the first cavity when the telescoping plug housing is inserted in the second cavity.

Regarding claims 17 and 18, wherein the jack retaining system comprises first and second grooves formed in the first cavity for engaging first and second protrusions on a jack (fig. 5).

Conclusion

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Briggitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Briggitte Hammond

Briggitte R. Hammond
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833

February 21, 2005